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ABSTRACT

The role of the state library agency in Nebraska is changing as regions and networks develop and assume the daily needs of individuals and small libraries. The supplementary needs of school and college libraries can be channeled and absorbed or referred. The development of regional libraries has progressed according to funds and schedule. Long range, intermediate and priority immediate goals are listed as are the roles of the regional library, the network coordinator and the library network. (AB)

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PANHANDLE REPORT

NEBRASKA PANHANDLE LIBRARY NETWORK
NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

LI 002 938

a report by the
Nebraska Public
Library Commission
January, 1971

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REGIONAL LIBRARY DEVELOPEMENT

The development of regional libraries in Nebraska dates to the beginning of the LSCA (Library Services and Construction Act) in 1956. The twenty regions, recommended by the Survey, have progressed according to funds and schedule and have proved to be good planning for the State of Nebraska. With the advent of a teletype network, established with Title III funds of LSCA, and subsequent studies, multi-regional networks were set up with the help of the State Office of Planning and Programming. The Commission felt that the establishment of networks, coordinating the efforts of all libraries in a particular geographic area, could improve library services of all types for all individuals. The network could also assist the Commission with priorities established by a council of librarians, trustees, and lay persons from the area.

The first network to be established under this plan got its impetus in the person of Mrs. Glenda Gamby, professionally trained and with good experience, who resided in the Panhandle for a little over a year and was employed by the Commission to work with the libraries in the area. She had a phenomenal group to work with her and the results were tremendously satisfactory. While she has moved to Alaska with her husband, the Council works on with a good replacement, Mrs. Nina Dougherty. This report of their first year is intended as a bench mark for them and is intended as a guide for the other networks in their beginning stages.

The role of the state library agency in Nebraska is changing as regions and networks develop and assume the daily needs of individuals and small libraries. The supplementary needs of school and college libraries can be channeled and absorbed or referred. The regional library will directly serve its users and member libraries. The network library will serve as a major resource center. The Commission will become the channeling agency, a resource for special needs, a consulting staff, a statewide coordinating group, etc.

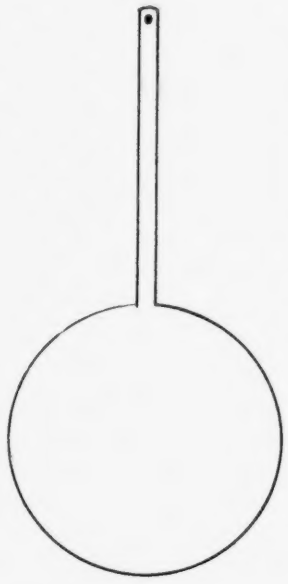
Jane Geske

JANE POPE GESKE
INTERIM EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY
COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, PANHANDLE LIBRARY NETWORK ADVISORY COUNCIL
FROM RIGHT Betty Waltman, Chadron Public Library, Reta King, Chadron State College, Shirley Flack, Scottsbluff Public Library
BACK Kay Lundgren, Nebraska Western College, R.W. Brown, Sidney Public Library,Nina Doughtery, Network Coordinator
Not pictured: Margery Curtiss, Sidney Public Schools

The organizational meeting of the Council was held on February 23, 1970. The first actual meeting was on July 24, 1970 with 25 librarians and trustees present. Mr. R.W. Brown, Director, Sidney Public Library and Miss Reta King, Chadron State College Librarian, were asked to be co-chairmen and Mrs. Flack Librarian, Scottsbluff Public Library, secretary of the Council. Discussion was good and those present made recommendations on goals and priorities for the Council. This discussion was centered on the manner in which federal funds were appropriated in fiscal 1970/71. About $5,000 of the $30,000 earmarked for the Panhandle was uncommitted and part of the Council's job was to decide how to spend this money.

It was decided that all libraries should automatically be a member of the Advisory Council. Then because this is too large a group to work effectively a smaller working group was appointed. This is the group that makes the decisions on recommendations of an authority from the larger group. The selection of this group was based on the recommendations of the NLA Library Development Committee. The composition includes representatives from school, college, small, medium, and TWX public libraries, NLA, Commission, trustee, PERC, and an elected official (yet to be appointed). This group is to be called the Executive Committee. They met August 4 to discuss long term goals and priorities. Also on the agenda was future cooperation with PERC (Panhandle Education Resource Center), the list of reference books for small libraries and a preparedness program for a demonstration. It was decided to talk and work with the Chadron Library Board to see about their willingness to build up their library for a future demonstration in Dawes County. It was felt that there is no way to run a demonstration to the northern part of the Panhandle from existing bookmobile operations. Goals and priorities were formulated by the Executive Committee using suggestions made at the July 24 meeting. These were sent to and approved by the Public Library Commission. See Appendix B.



The Executive Committee met with the Chadron Public Library Board December 2 to try and evaluate their interest in having a demonstration.

On December 9 the Executive Committee met again to make a decision about reference books for small libraries, a definite budget and to take care of other matters. Appendix C gives the budget. The Committee decided to start Chadron on a preparedness program this fiscal year with a tentative timetable of starting a demonstration in August 1972.

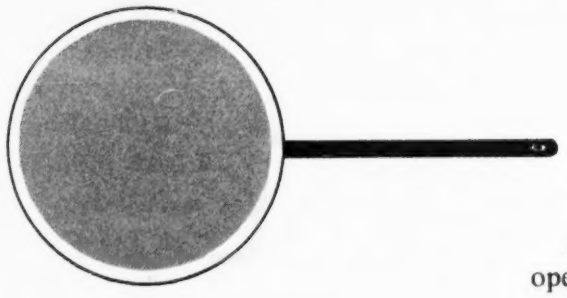
Mr. Don Jacobson, Nebraska Department of Economic Development, has been of assistance to the Council. He is not actually on the Council but is available for consultation. He has made some good suggestions and is genuinely interested in our cooperative project and its development.

One project the Advisory Council has already done successfully is the Union List of Serials. Reta King deserves much of the credit for this list. School, public and college libraries are represented. The plans call for annual revision and updating.

The Network Coordinator's job with the Advisory Council has been one of leadership, organization, a certain amount of prodding to keep the development on schedule, as well as:

1. Writing rough drafts of priorities, goals, etc.
2. Selecting the reference books and writing annotations.
3. Planning agendas and arranging for meetings.
4. Acting as liason contact between members of the Executive Committee.

Much time is spent talking and discussing the work of the Council with the librarians. The Advisory Council belongs to the librarians of the Network but suggestions and advice have been sought.



FUTURE OF THE PANHANDLE LIBRARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The future depends on many factors; one of the most important is cooperation. This quality must be present for the Council to work at all.

The Coordinator must find a way to work more effectively with the schools. They need to be brought more into the Council. The Union list is, of course, one good project for cooperation; possibly a processing and cataloging project would be another to draw them in. An expensive center is certainly not recommended but there are other possibilities for a processing project.

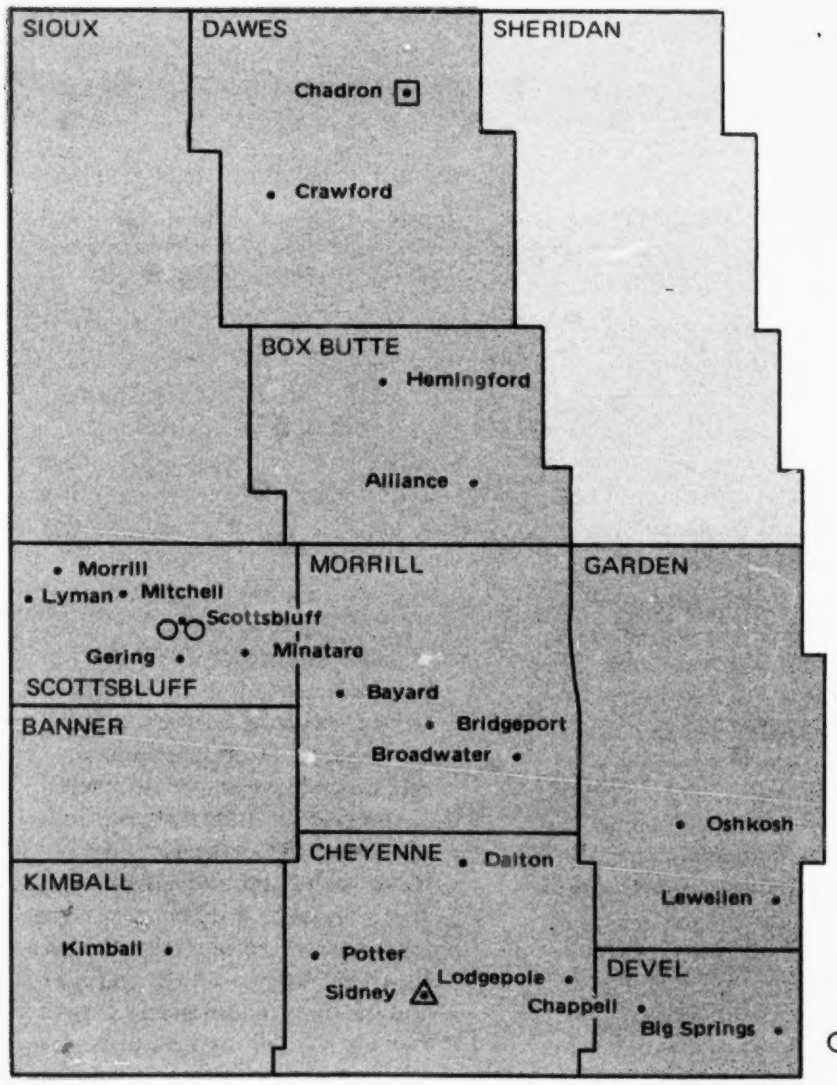
Another project often done in cooperative networks or systems is a common borrowers card good at all libraries in the network. More should be done about sharing the resources of the network. A Panhandle Union Catalog was suggested as a project but it would be too expensive and time consuming for the value it would give.

Also, in the future will be the problem of funding. The Council cannot be financed entirely by federal funds forever. There is going to have to be a local and state share. The local share should be small to begin with, a dollar charge per library in order to participate in the Council.

Also, the Council will need to consider the changing role of the Library Commission in relation to their goals and priorities. This will be a necessity especially if the law is changed so that the Library Commission has wider coordinating responsibilities.

An example of the way the Commission could affect the Council is in the area of book selection. The Commission is changing its policies to buy more research items and less of the popular. This will mean that the more popular should be located on the network or Regional level. This could be done by all libraries changing the book selection or the responsibility could be assumed by the Network or Regional libraries by using their own funds or by special grants.

Much of the emphasis in the Council is toward public libraries. One reason for this is the use of LSCA funds and another is that the Network Coordinator is an employee of the Commission. Should there be this emphasis on the public library? This is an important consideration for the future.

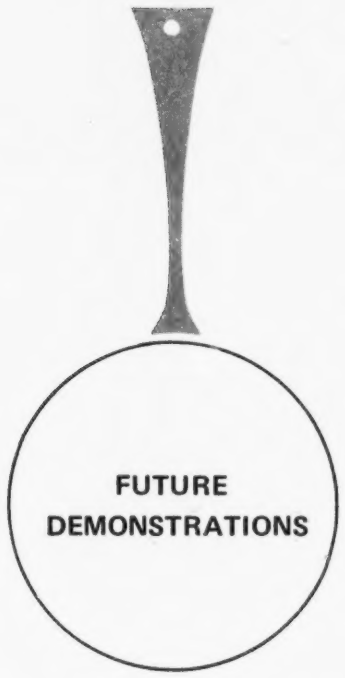


"Two active regions, XVII and XVIII, cover the area: Northwest Nebraska Regional Library, Scottsbluff,has had demonstrations in Sioux and Scottsbluff counties and will work with Chadron on the remaining three (Dawes, Box Butte, and Morrill). The TWX station in Scottsbluff handles the collect calls from the five county area.

Western Plains Regional Library, Sidney and Kimball, will cover the remaining five counties, with the addition of Garden County next year. The TWX station in Sidney handles the collect calls from the libraries in the lower five counties. (Sheridan County, in the Panhandle, for all planning purposes, is actually served by the Sandhills Regional Libraries). A total of 5 bookmobiles are involved in the Panhandle Counties.

Each community shown with a dot has a school system and library.
Each of the communities not shown will have some school library arrangement locally, or through consolidation.

• = Public Library
□ = State College Library (Chadron State)
△ = Vocational Technical College Library
○○ = Community College (Western Nebraska Community College) Library and Private College (Hiram Scott College) Library



Chadron should be built up for a demonstration. This will take a year or two depending on the amount of funds available. Funds should be spent approximately the following way to build up their collection:

65-70% Juvenile material
25-20% Adult nonfiction
10% Adult reference

All titles purchased should be in one of the standard catalogs or other approved list. Possibly 5-10% could be spent for current titles, not yet listed in the catalogs. In fact it's recommended that all money for book purchases, granted by the Commission, should have similar conditions. From checking, it is doubtful that most libraries use the recommended catalogs enough.

It is reasonable to assume that Sidney could give a demonstration to Garden County at the same time Chadron is in the preparedness program or actually starting their demonstration if financing permits. The interest is so great that we would hate not to see some kind of action in Garden County. However, this should not start until Deuel County is off demonstration and on local support. Doing two demonstrations at the same time could be too much of a drain on Sidney. If a tentative commitment were made to the Sidney Public Library and Garden County for the fall of 1972 this might please everyone. All demonstrations should start in late summer or in early fall. Spring is not a good time.

MRS. GLENDA GAMBY, COORDINATOR FOR THE PANHANDLE LIBRARY NETWORK
NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

COOPERATION IN PANHANDLE LIBRARIES

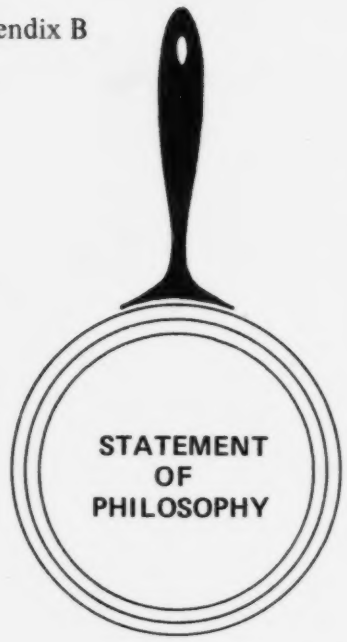
Appendix A

PUBLIC LIBRARIES	Public Library Catalog	Commission Reference List	Children's Catalog	Opening Day Collection	Union List	Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Panhandle Library Advisory Council
Alliance		/			/	O	O	/
Bayard					/	/	/	O
Big Springs					O	O	O	O
Bridgeport					/	/	/	/
Broadwater					/	/	/	/
Chadron		/	/		/	O	/	/
Chappell					O	O	/	/
Crawford					/	/	/	/
Dalton		/			O	O	/	O
Gering					/	/	/	O
Hemingford					O	O	O	O
Kimball	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Lewellen					/	/	O	/
Lodgepole					/	/	/	O
Lyman					O	O	O	O
Minitare					/	/	/	/
Mitchell					/	O	O	O
Morrill					/	O	/	O
Oshkosh					O	O	O	O
Potter					/	O	/	/
Scottsbluff	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Sidney	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
COLLEGE LIBRARIES								
Chadron State			/	/	/			/
Hiram Scott				/	/			/
Nebraska Western				/	/			/
SCHOOL LIBRARIES	2 are being checked now				20 participated			

/ - were asked and participated

O - were asked and did not participate

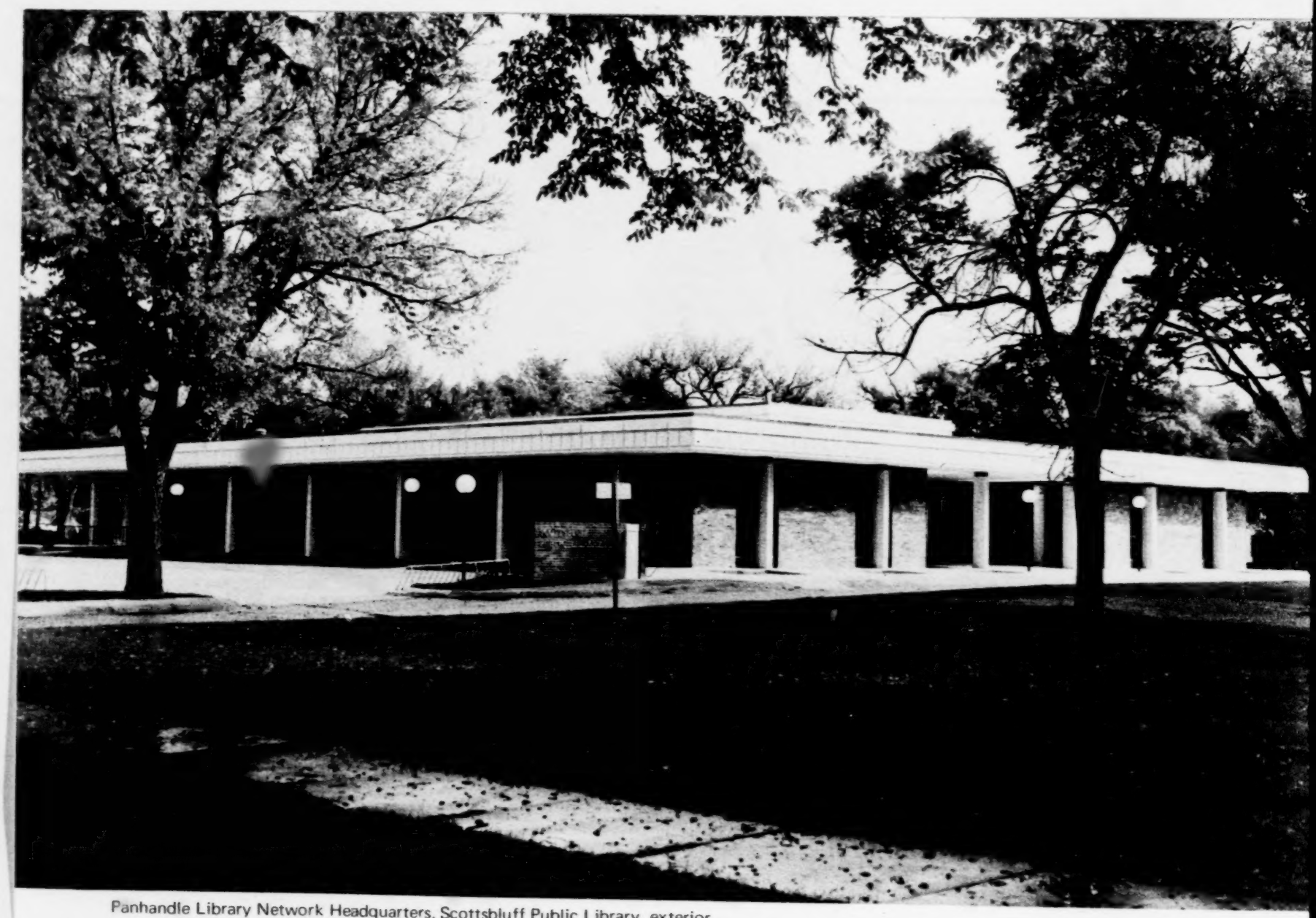
Appendix B



We believe that library service of the highest quality needs to be available to enrich the lives and thoughts of all age groups and segments of the population in the Panhandle Library Network. We also believe that this quality service can only come about through cooperation between all types of libraries, the sharing of resources, the coordination and development of new and added materials, and the extension of library service to all areas in the Panhandle.

LONG RANGE GOALS

1. Enlist political and public backing for the strengthening of financial support for the improvment of all libraries, with an increase in local support, the initiation of state support, and continued federal support.
2. Reciprocal borrowers privileges between all types of libraries in the Network.
3. Strengthen the resources, material and human, and services of all libraries in the Panhandle to meet the demands from pre-school to the highest academic level and to meet the needs for recreation, independent study, and continuing education demands of all individuals and groups.
4. Utilize the resources already available and those to be added through coordination and cooperation among all types of libraries on a local and area level.
5. County-wide service for all counties in the Panhandle.
6. Develop TWX libraries to perform many of the responsibilities and services now handled by the Nebraska Public Library Commission.



Panhandle Library Network Headquarters, Scottsbluff Public Library, exterior

INTERMEDIATE GOALS

1. Strengthen the resources and services of Panhandle libraries.
   a. A Panhandle Union List of Serials has been printed. This needs to be revised and up-dated on a yearly basis.
   b. Upgrade and develop the collections of public libraries.
2. In-service training workshops need to be provided because the ultimate worth of any library network will rest largely on the capabilities of the people who operate it.
3. Cooperation with the Panhandle Educational Resource Center, PERC, to utilize the facilities and resources of PERC to provide additional service.
4. Survey and prepare for future bookmobile demonstrations in Dawes County, Garden County, Morrill County, and Box Butte County.

Panhandle Library Network Headquarters, Scottsbluff Public Library, interior

PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 1970-1971

1. Print a basic reference list for the smaller Panhandle libraries serving populations of 2500 or less. We propose that a select number of books from this list be purchased with available federal funds.
2. Revision of the Panhandle Union List of Serials and expansion of it to include the holdings of those libraries not presently included.
3. At least one in-service training workshop after January 1971.
4. Survey for future bookmobile demonstration. Work out a preparedness program with the county selected to conduct the next available bookmobile demonstration.
5. An amount not to exceed $500 be allocated for clerical expenses and mileage expenses for the Executive Committee of the Panhandle Advisory Council.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Shirley Flack, Secretary
Panhandle Library Advisory Council

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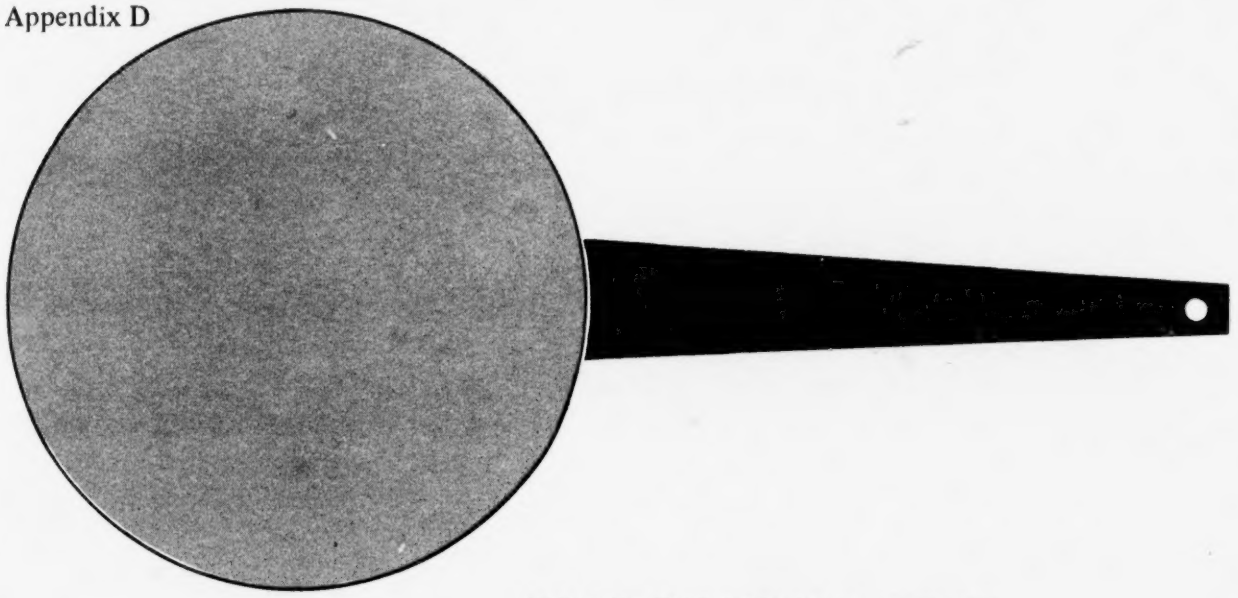
Appendix C

BUDGET 1970/1971

(Budget for the uncommitted $5000 of the funds allocated to the Panhandle)

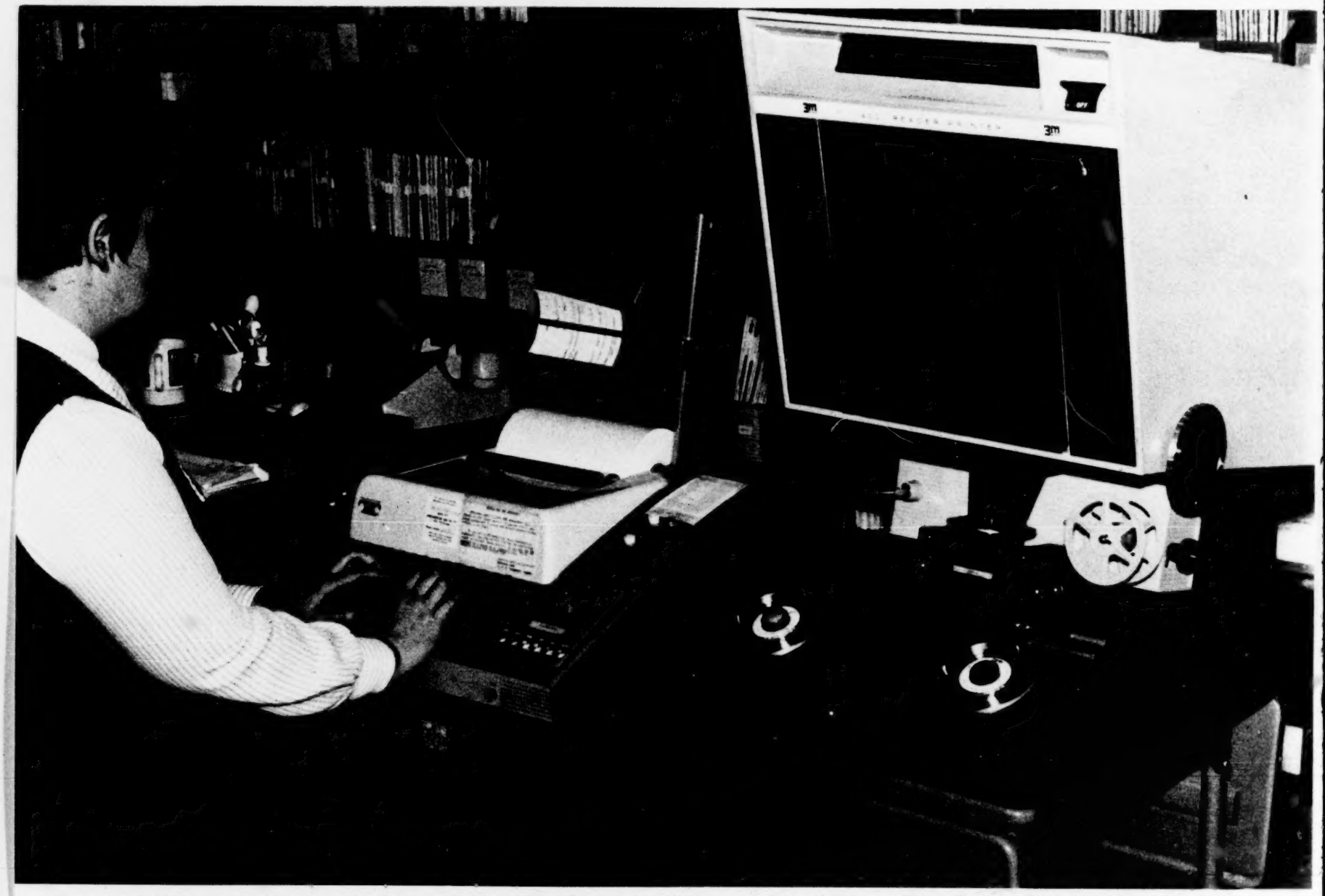
Reference books for small libraries and workshop on these books	$2400
Preparedness program for Chadron	2100
Operational expense for the Council	500
Total	$5000

Appendix D



ROLE OF THE REGIONAL LIBRARY

1. To work and cooperate with other public libraries in the region.
2. To provide interlibrary and/or TWX service.
3. Conduct workshops and give in-service training if necessary.
4. Be a reference center for the other public libraries in the region.
5. Develop and extend (with the assistance of the Nebraskan Public Library Commission) library service into counties not having county support by giving demonstration.
6. Provide bookmobile service where necessary and feasible.
7. Cooperate with the Nebraska Public Library Commission and the NLA Development Committee.
8. Cooperate with the network in improving library service.
9. Work with community and regional groups of all kinds in providing service for all residents of the area.
10. Provide other services as required and deemed economically feasible.
11. Provide free library service to all residents within the regional area.



A TWX message being sent to the Nebraska Public Library Commission Headquarters from the Western Plains Regional Library at Sidney Nebraska.

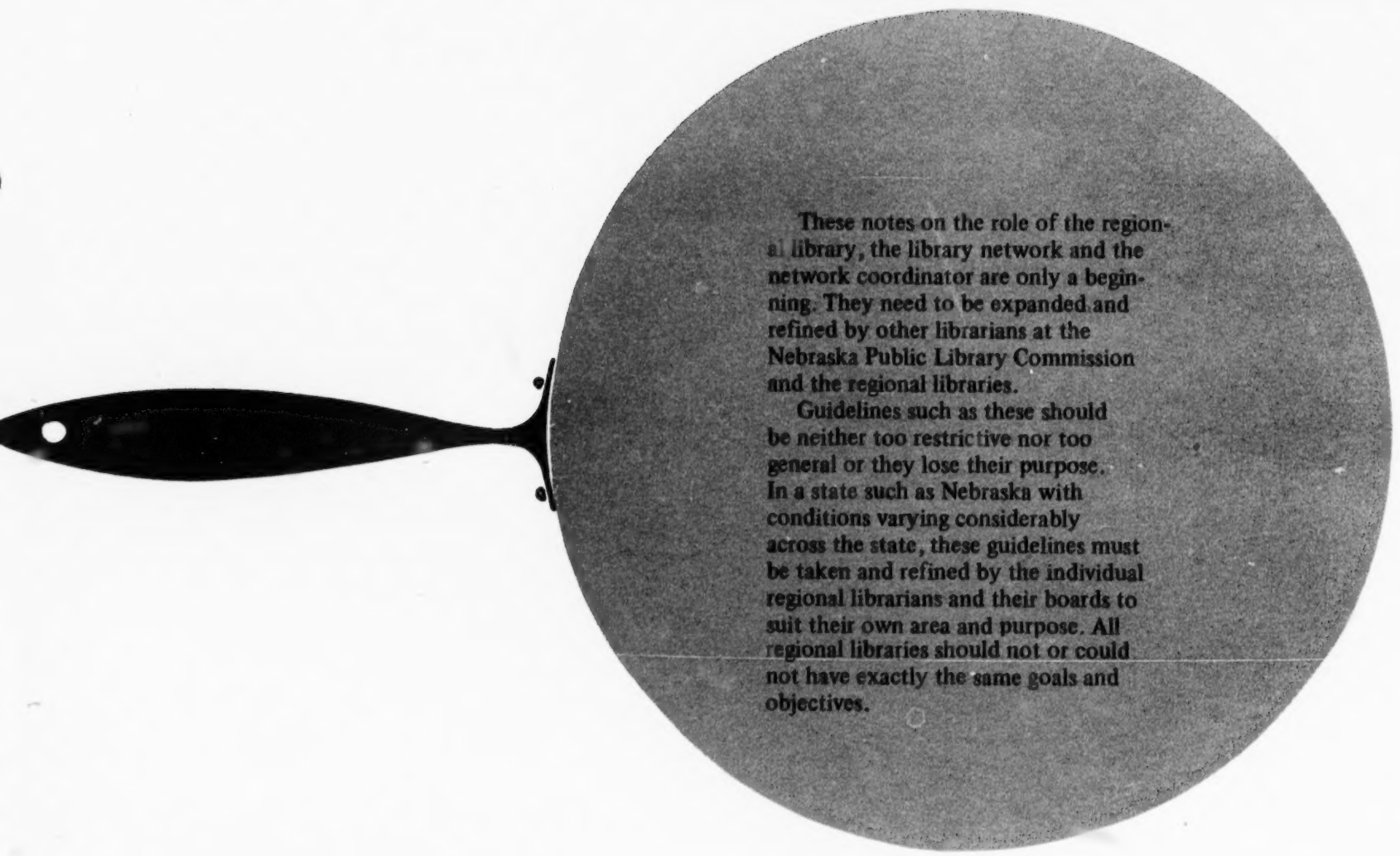
ROLE OF THE NETWORK COORDINATOR

1. Visit all libraries in the network; therefore keeping up with current happenings.
2. Encourage cooperation between libraries of the same type and between different types on regional, network, and local levels.
3. Be a member of the Advisory Council and help this group in any way.
4. Act as a liason between the Nebraska Public Library Commission and the network.
5. Be knowledgeable of federal and state funds being used by all types of libraries in the network and how they can be used to the most benefit and of other types of funding available for use.
6. Be willing to offer aid and advice to the public libraries that request assistance in changing procedures, improvement in service, etc.
7. Assess the resources of the different kinds of libraries in the network by checking standard lists and encouraging libraries to fill in the gaps in their collections.
8. Work with TWX libraries in order to provide a smooth flow of interlibrary loan service.
9. Assist in workshops and other in-service training meetings.
10. Assist in the development of union lists and other network projects.
11. Work closely with those libraries doing demonstrations.

To sum up, the network coordinator should work with the librarians in the network to plan library development and cooperation and to help them in any way possible.

ROLE OF A LIBRARY NETWORK

1. Encourage cooperation between school, public, college, and special libraries in the network.
2. Act as a planning body for library development in the network area by recommending priorities and goals to the Nebraska Public Library Commission.
3. Act as a planning body for the use of LSCA funds allocated to the network.
4. Make the best use of resources in all libraries and work to develop resources.
5. Develop cooperative lists and other projects of benefit to all libraries in the area. Example, centralized processing, cooperative purchasing, etc.
6. To serve the libraries in the network in any way the librarians judge desirable and economically feasible.
7. To work for better library service for all residents of the network.



These notes on the role of the regional library, the library network and the network coordinator are only a beginning. They need to be expanded and refined by other librarians at the Nebraska Public Library Commission and the regional libraries.

Guidelines such as these should be neither too restrictive nor too general or they lose their purpose. In a state such as Nebraska with conditions varying considerably across the state, these guidelines must be taken and refined by the individual regional librarians and their boards to suit their own area and purpose. All regional libraries should not or could not have exactly the same goals and objectives.